

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A polymeric container, comprising:
 - an integrally-formed, non-foldable, continuous body portion;
 - a rim encompassing and projecting laterally outwardly from the continuous
 - 5 body portion;
 - a first minor flap integrally connected to the rim along a first fold line, the first minor flap forming a first minor flap securing portion;
 - a second minor flap integrally connected to the rim along a second fold line and located opposite of the first minor flap, the second minor flap forming a second
 - 10 minor flap securing portion;
 - a first major flap integrally connected to the rim along a third fold line, the first major flap forming a first openable handle portion or first handle opening therein, a first end securing portion, and a second end securing portion; and
 - a second major flap integrally connected to the rim along a fourth fold line and
 - 15 located opposite of the first major flap, the second major flap forming a second openable handle portion or second handle opening therein, a third end securing portion, and a fourth end securing portion, the second openable handle portion or second handle opening of the second major flap being adapted to generally align with the first openable handle portion or first handle opening of the first major flap so as to
 - 20 form a handle when the container is in a closed position,
 - wherein the first minor flap securing portion secures the first and third end securing portions, and the second minor flap securing portion secures the second and fourth end securing portions, and wherein the container is a polymeric container.
2. The container of claim 1, wherein the first major flap forms a first
- 25 openable handle portion and the second major flap forms a second openable handle portion, the first and second openable handle portions are adapted to be removed so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.
3. The container of claim 1, wherein the first major flap forms a first handle opening and the second major flap forms a second handle opening, the first and
- 30 second handle openings are adapted to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.
4. The container of claim 1, wherein the first minor flap securing portion is a hinged opening, an opening, or a perforated cutout.

5. The container of claim 4, wherein the second minor flap securing portion is a hinged opening, an opening, or a perforated cutout.

6. The container of claim 1, wherein the first and second end securing portions of the first major flap are cutouts, perforated openings, hinged openings,
5 outward protrusions, or combinations thereof.

7. The container of claim 6, wherein the third and fourth end securing portions of the second major flap are cutouts, perforated opening or hinged openings.
outward protrusions, or combinations thereof.

8. The container of claim 1, wherein the first major flap further comprises
10 a fifth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof and the second major flap further comprises a sixth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof.

9. The container of claim 1, wherein the container comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

15 10. The container of claim 9, wherein the container comprises a polystyrene foam.

11. The container of claim 1, wherein the container is rectangularly shaped.

12. The container of claim 1, wherein the rim is continuous.

13. The container of claim 1, wherein the thickness of the container is from
20 about 50 mils to about 150 mils.

14. The container of claim 13, wherein the thickness of the container is from about 70 mils to about 100 mils.

15. A polymeric container, comprising:
an integrally-formed, non-foldable, body portion, the body portion comprising
25 a bottom and a sidewall encompassing and projecting upwardly from the bottom;

a first minor flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a first fold line, the first minor flap forming a first minor flap securing portion;

a second minor flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a second fold line and located opposite of the first minor flap, the second minor flap forming a
30 second minor flap securing portion;

a first major flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a third fold line, the first major flap forming a first openable handle portion or first handle opening therein, a first end securing portion, and a second end securing portion; and

a second major flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a fourth fold line and located opposite of the first major flap, the second major flap forming a second openable handle opening or second handle opening therein, a third end securing portion, and a fourth end securing portion, the second openable handle
5 portion or second handle opening of the second major flap being adapted to generally align with the first openable handle portion or first handle opening of the first major flap so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position,

wherein the first minor flap securing portion secures the first and third end securing portions, and the second minor flap securing portion secures the second and
10 fourth end securing portions, and wherein the container is a polymeric container.

16. The container of claim 15, wherein the sidewall is continuous.

17. The container of claim 15, wherein the first major flap forms a first openable handle portion and the second major flap forms a second openable handle portion, the first and second openable handle portions are adapted to be removed so as
15 to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

18. The container of claim 15, wherein the first major flap forms a first handle opening and the second major flap forms a second handle opening, the first and second handle openings are adapted to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

20 19. The container of claim 15, wherein the first minor flap securing portion is a hinged opening, an opening, or a perforated cutout.

20. The container of claim 19, wherein the second minor flap securing portion is a hinged opening, an opening, or a perforated cutout.

21. The container of claim 15, wherein the first and second end securing portions of the first major flap are cutouts, perforated openings, hinged openings, outward protrusions, or combinations thereof.
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22. The container of claim 21, wherein the third and fourth end securing portions of the second major flap are cutouts, perforated opening or hinged openings. outward protrusions, or combinations thereof.

30 23. The container of claim 15, wherein the first major flap further comprises a fifth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof and the second major flap further comprises a sixth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof.

24. The container of claim 15, wherein the container comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

25. The container of claim 24, wherein the container comprises a polystyrene foam.

5 26. The container of claim 15, wherein the container is rectangularly shaped.

27. The container of claim 15, wherein the thickness of the container is from about 50 mils to about 150 mils.

28. The container of claim 27, wherein the thickness of the container is
10 from about 70 mils to about 100 mils.

29. A polymeric container, comprising:

an integrally-formed, non-foldable, continuous body portion;

a rim encompassing and projecting laterally outwardly from the continuous body portion;

15 a first minor flap integrally connected to the rim along a first fold line, the first minor flap forming a first minor flap securing portion;

a second minor flap integrally connected to the rim along a second fold line and located opposite of the first minor flap, the second minor flap forming a second minor flap securing portion, the second minor flap being substantially identical to the
20 first minor flap;

a first major flap integrally connected to the rim along a third fold line, the first major flap forming a first openable handle portion or first handle opening therein, a first end securing portion, and a second end securing portion; and

a second major flap integrally connected to the rim along a fourth fold line and
25 located opposite of the first major flap, the second major flap forming a second openable handle portion or second handle opening therein, a third end securing portion, and a fourth end securing portion, the second openable handle portion or second handle opening of the second major flap being adapted to generally align with the first openable handle portion or first handle opening of the first major flap so as to
30 form a handle when the container is in a closed position, the second major flap being substantially identical to the first major flap,

wherein the first minor flap securing portion secures the first and third end securing portions, and the second minor flap securing portion secures the second and fourth end securing portions, and wherein the container is a polymeric container.

30. The container of claim 29, wherein the second minor flap is identical to the first minor flap and the second major flap is substantially identical to the first major flap

31. The container of claim 29, wherein the first major flap forms a first openable handle portion and the second major flap forms a second openable handle portion, the first and second openable handle portions are adapted to be removed so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

32. The container of claim 29, wherein the first major flap forms a first handle opening and the second major flap forms a second handle opening, the first and second handle openings are adapted to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

33. The container of claim 29, wherein the container comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

34. The container of claim 29, wherein the thickness of the container is from about 50 mils to about 150 mils.

35. A polymeric container, comprising:
an integrally-formed, non-foldable, body portion, the body portion comprising a bottom and a sidewall encompassing and projecting upwardly from the bottom;
a first minor flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a first fold line, the first minor flap forming a first minor flap securing portion;
a second minor flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a second fold line and located opposite of the first minor flap, the second minor flap forming a second minor flap securing portion, the second minor flap being substantially identical to the first minor flap;
a first major flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a third fold line, the first major flap forming a first openable handle portion or first handle opening therein, a first end securing portion, and a second end securing portion; and
a second major flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a fourth fold line and located opposite of the first major flap, the second major flap forming a second openable handle portion or second handle opening therein, a third end securing

portion, and a fourth end securing portion, the second openable handle portion or second handle opening of the second major flap being adapted to generally align with the first openable handle portion or first handle opening of the first major flap so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position, the second major flap being substantially identical to the first major flap,

wherein the first minor flap securing portion secures the first and third end securing portions, and the second minor flap securing portion secures the second and fourth end securing portions, and wherein the container is a polymeric container. .

36. The container of claim 35, wherein the second minor flap is identical to the first minor flap and the second major flap is substantially identical to the first major flap

37. The container of claim 35, wherein the first major flap forms a first openable handle portion and the second major flap forms a second openable handle portion, the first and second openable handle portions are adapted to be removed so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

38. The container of claim 35, wherein the first major flap forms a first handle opening and the second major flap forms a second handle opening, the first and second handle openings are adapted to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

39. The container of claim 35, wherein the container comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

40. The container of claim 35, wherein the thickness of the container is from about 50 mils to about 150 mils.

41. A process of forming a polymeric container, comprising the acts of:
providing a polymeric container, the container comprising a continuous body portion, a rim, a first minor flap, a second minor flap, a first major flap, and a second major flap, the body portion being integrally-formed and non-foldable, the rim encompassing and projecting laterally outwardly from the continuous body portion, the first minor flap integrally connected to the rim along a first fold line, the first minor flap forming a first minor flap securing portion, the second minor flap integrally connected to the rim along a second fold line and located opposite of the first minor flap, the second minor flap forming a second minor flap securing portion, the first major flap integrally connected to the rim along a third fold line, the first major flap

forming a first openable handle portion or first handle opening therein, a first end securing portion, and a second end securing portion, the second major flap integrally connected to the rim along a fourth fold line and located opposite of the first major flap, the second major flap forming a second openable handle portion or second handle opening therein, a third end securing portion and a fourth end securing portion;

5 folding the first major flap and the second major flap upwardly and inwardly to the approximate middle of the container such that the second openable handle portion or second handle opening of the second major flap is generally aligned with the first openable handle portion or first handle opening of the first major flap so as to
10 form a handle when the container is in a closed position;

folding the first minor flap and the second minor flap upwardly and inwardly toward the first and second major flaps;

pressing the first minor flap securing portion over and into the first and third end securing portions; and

15 pressing the second minor flap securing portion over and into the second and fourth end securing portions.

42. The process of claim 41, wherein the container is formed by thermoforming.

43. The process of claim 41, wherein the first major flap has a first openable handle portion and further comprising removing the first openable handle
20 portion so as to form a first opening.

44. The process of claim 43, wherein the second major flap has a second openable handle portion and further comprising removing the second openable handle portion so as to form a second opening.

25 45. The process of claim 41, wherein the first major flap further comprises a fifth fold line that divides the first major flap into a first section and a second section, and the second major flap further comprises a sixth fold line that divides the second major flap into a third section and a fourth section, and wherein the folding of the first major flap and the second major flap upwardly and inwardly results in the
30 second section being generally perpendicular to the first section of the first major flap and the fourth section being generally perpendicular to the third section of the second major flap.

46. The process of claim 41 further adding food into the container before folding the first and second major flaps and folding the first and second minor flaps.

47. The process of claim 41, wherein the first major flap forms a first handle opening and the second major flap forms a second handle opening, the first and
5 second handle openings are adapted to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

48. The process of claim 41, wherein the first major flap further comprises a fifth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof and the second major flap further comprises a sixth fold line that extends generally along a major axis
10 thereof.

49. The process of claim 41, wherein the container comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

50. The process of claim 41, wherein the rim is continuous.

51. The process of claim 41, wherein the thickness of the container is from
15 about 50 mils to about 150 mils.

52. The process of claim 51, wherein the thickness of the container is from about 70 mils to about 100 mils.

53. A process of forming a polymeric container, comprising the acts of:
providing a polymeric container, the container comprising a body portion, a
20 first minor flap, a second minor flap, a first major flap, and a second major flap, the body portion being integrally-formed and non-foldable, the body portion comprising a bottom and a sidewall encompassing and projecting upwardly from the bottom, the first minor flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a first fold line, the first minor flap forming a first minor flap securing portion, the second minor flap integrally
25 connected to the sidewall along a second fold line and located opposite of the first minor flap, the second minor flap forming a second minor flap securing portion, the first major flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a third fold line, the first major flap forming a first openable handle portion or first handle opening therein, a first end securing portion, and a second end securing portion, the second major flap
30 integrally connected to the sidewall along a fourth fold line and located opposite of the first major flap, the second major flap forming a second openable handle portion or second handle opening therein, a third end securing portion and a fourth end securing portion;

folding the first major flap and the second major flap upwardly and inwardly to the approximate middle of the container such that the second openable handle portion or second handle opening of the second major flap is generally aligned with the first openable handle portion or first handle opening of the first major flap so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position;

folding the first minor flap and the second minor flap upwardly and inwardly toward the first and second major flaps;

pressing the first minor flap securing portion over and into the first and third end securing portions; and

pressing the second minor flap securing portion over and into the second and fourth end securing portions.

54. The process of claim 53, wherein the container is formed by thermoforming.

55. The process of claim 53, wherein the first major flap has a first openable handle portion and further comprising removing the first openable handle portion so as to form a first opening.

56. The process of claim 55, wherein the second major flap has a second openable handle portion and further comprising removing the second openable handle portion so as to form a second opening.

57. The process of claim 53, wherein the first major flap further comprises a fifth fold line that divides the first major flap into a first section and a second section, and the second major flap further comprises a sixth fold line that divides the second major flap into a third section and a fourth section, and wherein the folding of the first major flap and the second major flap upwardly and inwardly results in the second section being generally perpendicular to the first section of the first major flap and the fourth section being generally perpendicular to the third section of the second major flap.

58. The process of claim 53 further adding food into the container before folding the first and second major flaps and folding the first and second minor flaps.

59. The process of claim 53, wherein the first major flap forms a first handle opening and the second major flap forms a second handle opening, the first and second handle openings are adapted to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

60. The process of claim 53, wherein the first major flap further comprises a fifth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof and the second major flap further comprises a sixth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof.

5 61. The process of claim 53, wherein the container comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

62. The process of claim 53, wherein the thickness of the container is from about 50 mils to about 150 mils.

63. The process of claim 62, wherein the thickness of the container is from
10 about 70 mils to about 100 mils.

64. A polymeric container, comprising:
an integrally-formed, non-foldable, continuous body portion;
a rim encompassing and projecting laterally outwardly from the continuous body portion;
15 a first minor flap integrally connected to the rim along a first fold line;
a second minor flap integrally connected to the rim along a second fold line and located opposite of the first minor flap;
a first major flap integrally connected to the rim along a third fold line, the first major flap forming a first openable handle portion or first handle opening therein;
20 and
a second major flap integrally connected to the rim along a fourth fold line and located opposite of the first major flap, the second major flap forming a second openable handle portion or second handle opening therein, the second openable handle portion or second handle opening of the second major flap being adapted to
25 generally align with the first openable handle portion or first handle opening of the first major flap so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position, and
wherein the container is a polymeric container.

65. The container of claim 64, wherein the first major flap forms a first openable handle portion and the second major flap forms a second openable handle
30 portion, the first and second openable handle portions are adapted to be removed so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

66. The container of claim 64, wherein the first major flap forms a first handle opening and the second major flap forms a second handle opening, the first and

second handle openings are adapted to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

67. The container of claim 64, wherein the first major flap further comprises a fifth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof and the
5 second major flap further comprises a sixth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof.

68. The container of claim 64, wherein the container comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

69. The container of claim 64, wherein the thickness of the container is
10 from about 50 mils to about 150 mils.

70. The container of claim 64, wherein the first and second major flaps are substantially identical and the first and second minor flaps are substantially identical.

71. The container of claim 70, wherein the first and second major flaps are identical and the first and second minor flaps are identical.

15 72. A polymeric container, comprising:
an integrally-formed, non-foldable, body portion, the body portion comprising a bottom and a sidewall encompassing and projecting upwardly from the bottom;
a first minor flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a first fold line;
a second minor flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a second fold
20 line and located opposite of the first minor flap;
a first major flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a third fold line, the first major flap forming a first openable handle portion or first handle opening therein; and
a second major flap integrally connected to the sidewall along a fourth fold
25 line and located opposite of the first major flap, the second major flap forming a second openable handle opening or second handle opening therein, the second openable handle portion or second handle opening of the second major flap being adapted to generally align with the first openable handle portion or first handle opening of the first major flap so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed
30 position, and

wherein the container is a polymeric container.

73. The container of claim 72, wherein the first major flap forms a first openable handle portion and the second major flap forms a second openable handle

portion, the first and second openable handle portions are adapted to be removed so as to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

74. The container of claim 72, wherein the first major flap forms a first handle opening and the second major flap forms a second handle opening, the first and second handle openings are adapted to form a handle when the container is in a closed position.

75. The container of claim 72, wherein the first major flap further comprises a fifth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof and the second major flap further comprises a sixth fold line that extends generally along a major axis thereof.

76. The container of claim 72, wherein the container comprises an alkenyl aromatic polymer.

77. The container of claim 72, wherein the thickness of the container is from about 50 mils to about 150 mils.

78. The container of claim 72, wherein the first and second major flaps are substantially identical and the first and second minor flaps are substantially identical.

79. The container of claim 78, wherein the first and second major flaps are identical and the first and second minor flaps are identical.